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# Lucey Saw Carter Incompetence First-Hand

Washington

**JOHN ANDERSON** and **Pat Lucey** have had an eye on each other for some time. Representative **Les Aspin** of Wisconsin, Mr. Anderson's House colleague and Mr.

By Mary McGrory

Lucey's old friend, was the match-maker for the new independent ticket.

Last March, when Mr. Anderson was still a Republican candidate and Mr. Lucey was Edward Kennedy's deputy campaign manager, Mr. Lucey asked Mr. Aspin to sound out the congressman about some kind of a Kennedy-Anderson rapprochement.

But on March 25, Mr. Kennedy unexpectedly won the New York primary, and the initiative was abandoned.

But by July 31, when the two rejected candidates made an awkward and confusing joint appearance, they followed, in a general way, Mr. Lucey's winter script.

The same day, July 31, Mr. Aspin again visited Mr. Anderson, ostensibly to discuss defense matters, but really, it turned out, to explore the possibility that Mr. Lucey would work in the Anderson campaign. The vice presidency was not specifically discussed.

The scene then shifted to Madison Square Garden, to Monday night after the Kennedy forces lost the battle for an open convention. Quiet Pat Lucey, startlingly, came on as God's

angry man—quitting the Kennedy campaign, resigning as a delegate, and refusing to say he would vote for Jimmy Carter in November.

Several days later, Mr. Lucey and Mr. Anderson had a meeting in New York.

Mr. Aspin was called in again last week to make the case for his client in the presence of Mr. Anderson, David Garth, Mr. Anderson's campaign manager, and Mitchell Rogovin, the campaign's counsel.

Mr. Aspin, who has known and liked Mr. Lucey for 25 years, gave his pitch. Mr. Lucey had built the Democratic Party in Wisconsin. As state chairman in 1960, he had supported Jack Kennedy. He had been an effective, progressive governor for two terms, establishing himself as both pro-business and pro-environment. His experience as Jimmy Carter's ambassador to Mexico lends the needed international glow.

On the downside, Mr. Lucey is neither well-known nor glamorous. He is a sober rather than inspiring speaker. He is from the same neck of the woods as Mr. Anderson. He's not Walter Cronkite, who was Mr. Anderson's first choice, and he's not Hugh Carey, his second. But he is a Catholic, a liberal and a Kennedy Democrat, universally regarded as a nice man and a principled politician—and oh, yes, by the way, qualified to be president.

When Mr. Aspin saw which way the wind was blowing, he called Mr. Lucey and told him that like other members of the Wisconsin delegation, he will be supporting the Carter-Mondale ticket.

Mr. Lucey's reaction was unperturbed and professional: "Hang out a little," he counseled; "get something from them."

The most intriguing things about Mr. Lucey is the enmity he bears Jimmy Carter. The president's men attribute it to the usual bitterness of the disappointed office-seeker. Mr. Lucey, they say, was hoping for a cabinet post after his service in Mexico. Denied, he turned against the leader of his party.

Mr. Lucey's friends tell another story. Mr. Lucey's tenure as ambassador to Mexico was an education in the incoherence of the Carter presidency.

His cables and recommendations were ignored. The reports of the CIA station chief had greater weight. The White House sent hare-brained initiatives and super-envoys to work behind his back.

He felt that the United States could have worked out a highly satisfactory deal on urgently needed Mexican oil through careful and conventional diplomatic approaches, instead of the systematic insults of the then secretary of energy, James R. Schlesinger.

Carter Democrats on hearing of Mr. Lucey's laments, launched a counterattack. Stories appeared in the Washington press detailing his failures, his inability to speak Spanish, his closeness to the Mexican foreign minister and his reluctance to give large embassy parties.

Mr. Lucey resigned in October and immediately joined the Kennedy campaign.

His dramatic walkout at the convention was greeted with an angry charge of "ingratitude" on the part of Jody Powell, the president's press secretary.

Members of the Wisconsin delegation, who are surprised that he would cut the political ties of a quarter of a century, are of the opinion that the addition of Pat Lucey will not make much difference to Mr. Anderson's chances of success, even in Wisconsin.